

**Remarks**

Claims 7-12 and 18-22 are pending. Claims 7-9, 12 and 18-22 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Mowery et al (U.S. Patent no. 5,983,198). Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and, alternatively §103(a) as being anticipated by or unpatentable over Mowery et al. Claim 11 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mowery et al. Applicants traverse the rejections.

**The transaction oriented methods and systems of the invention as claimed are patentable over the non-transaction oriented inventory management system of Mowery et al.**

The Examiner asserts that Mowery shows sending a request from a network for real time data comprising, for instance, inventory level of a partner; receiving the real-time data from the partner; and generating a real-time report using the data providing visibility into the status of the partner. However, Mowery et al. do not teach or suggest the transaction oriented methods and systems that involve real-time data relating to a transaction in which the partner is involved, as recited in the claims.

The reference relied upon by the Examiner shows a system directed toward managing raw material inventory by monitoring, using a central station, telemetry data relating to inventory and usage patterns. (Col. 3, lines 36-44.) Level sensors 108 and temperature sensors 110 are installed in tanks 104 at plants 102. (Col. 3, lines 51-58.) The temperature and level signals are provided to a remote telemetry unit 112 that is programmed to provide the information to the central station 114. (Col. 3, lines 58-65.) The telemetry data is collected at the central station using information systems that store, analyze and report inventory and usage patterns. (Col. 4, lines 13-16.) Material consumption at each plant 102 is predicted based on the particular site's historical consumption pattern and available information on future changes and product delivery is optimally scheduled by the central station 114 based on the site inventory and site receiving characteristics such that the delivery of raw materials to the tanks 104 is customized to fit the particular needs of the particular plant 102. (Col. 4, lines 18-24.) The reference relied upon is directed toward maintaining inventory and does not appear to contain any teaching related to the management of transactions.

In contrast, the present invention, is directed toward transaction oriented methods and systems. Claim 7 recites "sending a request for real-time data from a network system to a partner coordinator component integrated with an existing partner system, the real-time data relating to a transaction in which the partner is involved" and "generating a real-time report using the real-time data for updating the enterprise on the transaction in which the partner is

involved”. (Emphasis added.) Claim 18 recites “a database operable to maintain a context for a transaction in which the partner is involved” and a processor operable to “send a request to a partner coordinator component integrated with an existing partner system for access to real-time data relating to a transaction in which the partner is involved” and “generate a real-time report using the real-time data for updating the enterprise on the transaction in which the partner is involved”. (Emphasis added.)

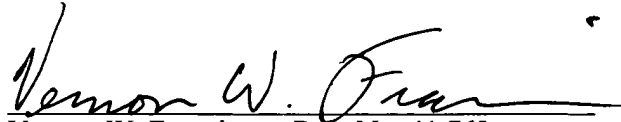
The specification as originally filed gives as examples of transaction data numbers for purchase orders, shipping receipts, invoices for various transactions in which the respective partner is involved. (Page 18, lines 17-19.) The specification describes a workflow that “may be initiated by a transaction, a request, or a demand” and where the workflows “may access real-time data relevant to a transaction from an existing partner system ... and process a request for a transaction in the context for the transaction.” (Page 21, lines 9-13, emphasis added.) At page 22, the specification describes a database that stores real-time data relating to transactions. At page 23, a partner coordinator component 180 is describes that provides the network domain with real-time information about transactions occurring within the supply chain (lines 12-14) and Figure 6 shows scenarios for how a transaction might flow through the network 10 (lines 22-23). The present invention is directed toward methods and systems for reporting in a supply chain involving an enterprise and at least one partner, where the information reported relates to a transaction involving the partner.

Nothing in the reference relied upon appears to teach or suggest the transaction-oriented methods and systems of the invention as claimed. Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are patentable over the reference relied upon by the Examiner.

In re Appln. of Reynaldo Gil et al.  
Application No. 10/027,965

The application is considered in good and proper form for allowance, and the Examiner is respectfully requested to pass this application to issue. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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